IN THE SPECIFICATION

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to medical apparatus and cannula for delivering a breathable gas mixture to a patient.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to the present invention there is provided a nasal cannula for delivering a breathable gas mixture comprising helium and oxygen to a patient, the nasal cannula comprising a length of high pressure narrow bore tubing having a proximal end region for connection to a high pressure source of the breathable gas mixture <u>at a pressure in the range of 100 bar to 300 bar</u> and a distal end region connected to at least one nasal administration device, wherein the nasal administration device or the distal end region of the tubing has at least one orifice for the expansion of the breathable gas mixture.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

An embodiment of the invention will now be described by way of example, reference being made to the Figures of the accompanying diagrammatic drawings in which:

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

ATTY. DKT. M02B127

As shown in Figure 1, an apparatus 1 for delivering a breathable gas mixture including helium under pressure to a patient comprises a source of the gas mixture in the form of a cylinder 2 to which is mounted a single stage gas regulator 4 in a manner known <u>per se</u>. Preferably, the mixture contains 28% by volume helium, the remainder being oxygen.

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In use, the gas mixture under high pressure leaves the cylinder 2 and passes through the regulator 4. The pressure at the outlet of the regulator 4 is preferably in the range 100 bar to 300 bar. The gas mixture passes via the high pressure flexible braided hose 6 to the cannula 7.[[.]]

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CLAIMS-What we claim is: